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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 30 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on behalf of the States members of the Arab League, to attach herewith a communiqué issued by the Arab Group with regard to the ongoing Turkish military invasion of Iraq.

You are kindly requested to bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council and to issue it as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Communiqué

The Group of Arab States at the United Nations is following with considerable concern the dangerous situation created in Iraq following the large-scale and continued invasion of Iraqi territory by the Turkish army since 13 May 1997. This invasion constitutes a serious aggression, which could have dire consequences for the security and stability of the entire region, especially coming after the signing of the Israel-Turkey military cooperation agreement with all the risks that this entails for the security of the Arab Nation.

The Group of Arab States in New York reiterates that this invasion violates the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of international law, the established rules governing the principle of good-neighbourliness, human rights, and the 1926 Treaty on the borders between Iraq and Turkey, as well as posing a threat to the safety of the civilian population. Moreover, it believes that the invasion could have adverse consequences for the historical and cultural ties between the Arab countries and Turkey and for their common interests.

The Group of Arab States wishes to recall the declaration adopted on this question on 15 May 1997 by the Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

It welcomes the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 22 May 1997, in which he denounced the invasion and called for an end to it, drawing the attention of the Security Council to the aforesaid declaration.

The Group of Arab States wishes to reiterate the following:

1. It vigorously condemns the Turkish army's invasion of Iraqi territory, for invading the territory of a third country is a flagrant violation of the principle of good-neighbourliness, the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

2. No one should exploit the exceptional situation imposed in northern Iraq. Turkish forces must therefore end their aggression and withdraw forthwith from Iraqi territory, completely and unconditionally.

3. The Security Council must fulfil its obligations by preserving the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Iraq, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international legitimacy and the rules of international law.

4. The Group opposes any security or other arrangements, irrespective of the grounds on which they are based, which could violate the sovereignty, territorial integrity or security of Iraq.

New York, 30 May 1997